



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
June 9, 2016**

Members Present: Jackie Hilaire, Gary Feffer, Charles Castle, Mina Liebert, Ron Ilgen, Scot Hume, Jason Rupinski, Hank Scarangella, Alex Johnson

Members Absent: N/A

Alternates Present: N/A

Alternates Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

.....
Called to Order Jackie Hilaire brought the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Gayle Humm (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association) Presented a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the El Pomar Foundation to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Ramona Boone (Pikes Peak Pickleball Association) The \$15,000 grant will go towards the pickleball court upgrades at Monument Valley Park. The tournament is held from September 7 – 11th at Monument Valley Park.

Susan Davies (Trails and Open Space Coalition) The closed segment of the Santa Fe trail has been opened which connects with the Pikes Peak Greenway. The El Paso County Parks Advisory Board meeting was yesterday and they are considering bringing a group together to focus on long range alternatives in having trails on the east side of Interstate 25. Please consider being a part of this group when the opportunity becomes available. The first Annual Bike Summit was held on Friday, June 3rd from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at UCCS. Several people from the community presented and 220 individuals participated. The Starlight Spectacular Bike Ride is this weekend on Saturday, June 20th at Garden of the Gods Park.

Karen Fleming (Meadows Park Community Center) Bike to Work Day is on Wednesday, June 22nd at 6:00 a.m. and begins at Goose Gossage Park. The Blue Moon Trail Run series starts on June 24th and begins at Pinon Valley Park. Meadows Park Community Center has partnered with Colorado Food and Rescue and Whole Foods. Whole Foods has provided up to 1700 pounds of food to the Meadows Park Community Center store that gives to the community. The book "Sunflower House" was presented to Jackie Hilaire for her service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Approval of Minutes

April 14, 2016, 1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous

May 12, 2016, 1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous

Action Items

1. Recommendation to Rename Palmer Park Grandview Overlook (Presented by Matt Mayberry – Cultural Services Division Manager, Matthew Driftmier - Citizen)

- Matthew Driftmier (Executive Director of Colorado Springs Company) reached out to the president of the Palmer Park Friends group regarding his proposal to rename the Palmer Park Grandview Overlook to “Mayor John Robinson Grandview Overlook”. The group is in favor of the proposal.
- Matt Mayberry will assist with the appropriate signage which is anticipated for installation in the Fall of 2016.

Motion: To approve the proposal to rename the Grandview Overlook as the “Mayor John Robinson Grandview Overlook.”

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd - Alex Johnson, Approved – Unanimous

2. North Nevada Avenue Pedestrian Improvements - Historic Median Modification (Presented by Tim Siebert, NES Incorporated)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The presentation included: the proposed site plan; a project overview and existing conditions.

- Chris Lieber introduced this item which is a proposal to modify the median on North Nevada by San Rafael.
- The pavement that interrupts the median will become a part of median.
- Connie Perry will review the development segment along with the landscape and design.
- This is an administrative application which is not required to go to the Planning Commission or City Council.

Motion: To approve the proposed North Nevada Historic Median renovation as part of the Colorado College East Campus Student Housing Project.

1st – Jason Rupinski, 2nd - Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous

3. TOPS Policy and Procedure Manual Revisions (Presented by Chris Lieber – Parks Development Manager)

- The TOPS Working Committee reviewed the manual along with a TOPS subcommittee. The Committee voted last month to approve the additions and changes to the manual.
- The city’s legal department was a part of the review process for the manual.

- Some additions to the manual included: roles and responsibilities; term timelines and the TOPS ordinance.
- Property owners in which land acquisitions are being considered are not contacted every year; however, if it is a priority property, communication is continued.
- Discussion included the following topics: property owners and everyone that might be affected by an acquisition should be contacted within a certain timeframe; the people around the area should know an acquisition will be taking place to help with transparency; and TOPS Working Committee alternate's term of three years is lengthy.
- Chris Lieber stated that when questions arise regarding acquisitions the first step is to contact the property owners. In most cases, property owners bring these properties to our attention as they want the land preserved.
- Karen Palus commented that alternates are welcome to make comments during the citizen discussion section of the meeting.
- Hank Scarangella and Scot Hume will meet with Chris Lieber to draft changes to reflect some of the Board members concerns.
- This item will be deferred until the July meeting in order to make changes regarding language clarification.

4. 2017 CIP Budget, Fees & Charges (Presented by Chris Lieber – Parks Development Manager and Kim King – Recreation and Administration Manager)

[Link to CIP Budget Power Point presentation](#)

Chris Lieber presented the CIP Budget power point presentation which included: the approval timeline; funding sources; informing the budget process; 2017 TOPS revenue estimates; recommended trail projects (Cottonwood Trail at Academy Underpass, Sinton Trail at Chestnut Underpass, Midland Trail South, Shooks Run Trail South, Cottonwood Trail - Austin Bluffs Underpass); recommended park projects (park maintenance, emergency repair, playground renovation and replacement, North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan Update and Austin Bluffs Open Space Master Plan) and recommended Open Space projects (Red Rock Canyon Open Space payment, Open Space acquisition account, Ute Valley Master Plan implementation, stewardship).

- Revenues are relatively flat.
- The unfunded projects list will be submitted to City Council for consideration to be funded by the General Fund; however, these dollars are very limited.
- Most roadways are a part of the city infrastructure and are covered and funded by 2C which includes North Cheyenne Canon.
- Parking lots are very expensive and three parks parking lots will be completed this summer.
- Historic grants are being pursued to help with various projects including the historic walls in Monument Valley Park.
- Hank Scarangella expressed concern that projects for Garden of the Gods (GOG) were not on any of the budget lists. Garden of the Gods is the city's signature park as millions of people visit the park and issues need to be addressed.

- Chris Lieber explained there are projects for GOG Park that are currently taking place to include; restroom renovations and studies, signage and repairing the roads.
- Karen Palus stated this is a priority list which is a small picture of the large list and GOG Park is on other lists. There is a strong balance between the City and the Friends of Garden of the Gods Foundation supporting GOG Park last year and moving into next year.
- Kurt Schroeder expressed that a long list of needs for our parks exist and unfortunately it is a challenge to categorize them. Partnerships exist with GOG Park which helps with funding.
- Kim King explained the role of the Facilities Committee. The Committee has a five year running plan and some unfunded projects are on this list. These projects will go into the General Fund which are potential dollars for Parks and are on the 2017 list. In addition, facility assessments conducted by outside organizations are completed on projects to help determine priority for funding.

[Link to Fees & Charges Power Point presentation](#)

Kim King presented the Fees & Charges power point presentation which included: the areas proposed for 2017 changes (Sertich Ice Center, City Auditorium, therapeutic recreation, community centers, Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain and the North/South Slope recreation areas); philosophies associated with pricing; and strategies to determine how best to provide services effectively and efficiently.

- The 2010 to 2016 and charges schedules were sent to board members as well as the revised 2017 fees and charges including a calculation showing the percentage change from 2016.
- In 2010 there was a substantial increase in fees and charges due to a push to increase revenue.
- There were minimal changes made between 2011 and 2015.
- Our facilities are all very different regarding infrastructure, condition of equipment and schedules resulting in different pricing structures.
- Due to serving several markets with different school programs and hours of operations a cost of \$1.25/per hour of direct contact was used as a calculation amount to determine costs of programs to be consistent among Community Centers.
- Families are aware of the increases ahead of time and Community Center staff is knowledgeable about offering payment plans and sliding scales if the fee is a hardship for a family.
- The City’s Finance Department is currently reviewing every department that has fees and charges. They would like to implement a more standardized approach and a meeting will be held next week regarding standardization.
- Ron Ilgen suggested other ways need to be established to create funds to support the Parks Department and that event registrations could include donations.
- Charles Castle suggested event participants should be given a choice of a donation to go specifically towards a certain project fund.

- Susan Davies (Trails and Open Space Coalition) The TOSC Board at their last meeting decided to ask the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to talk to City Council regarding funding projects. This conversation needs to start as a beginning to try to find dollars for important projects. Three priority projects were identified by the TOSC Board to bring to City Council's attention: Shooks Run, playground renovations and pedestrian bridge maintenance.
- Jennifer Peterson (Rocky Mountain Field Institute) The Institute consists of 1500 volunteers that work in City Parks on building sustainable trails, controlling erosion and stewardship. They have been working with GOG Park for 15 years and although a lot of work is accomplished, visitation is increasing and they need funding. The Park receives two million visitors a year and it is the economic driver of the City. The visitors expect a high quality visitation experience from great trails, restrooms and the visitor center.
- Charles Castle requested from Chris Lieber an itemized list of revenue and expenses.

Motion: To approve the 2017 CIP Budget as presented.

1st – Hank Scarangella, 2nd - Charles Castle, Approved – Unanimous

Motion: To approve the 2017 Fees and Charges shown on Exhibits A, B and D.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Ron Ilgen, Approved – Unanimous

5. Tutt Sports Complex – Utility Corridor Presented by Chris Lieber – Parks Development Manager)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

A request has been received from NES, Inc., on behalf of the Davis Company and Colorado Springs Utilities for a public utility corridor across the undeveloped Tutt Sports Complex site. This is necessary for the construction of underground utilities to serve a private development located east of the Tutt Sports Complex site. If approved, the staff will pursue an executive agreement with CSU for use of this corridor.

Motion: To approve the proposed Utility Corridor

1st – Mina Liebert, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous

Presentations

6. Cottonwood Trail at Academy Boulevard Update (Presented by Chris Lieber – Parks Development Manager)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The power point presentation included diagrams, maps and features of two options for construction and trail connections.

- Two options have garnered the most interest.

- The trail on the east side of Academy, south of Cottonwood Creek. This option maximizes the value of the bridge structures; however, maintenance issues will be a challenge.
- The trail on the south side which includes a pedestrian bridge.
- Construction will take place in 2016 – 2018 and traffic impacts will occur.
- Scot Hume expressed concern with option 1 regarding the fact that the big curves in the design could pose a problem. Chris Lieber explained other construction options.
- More meetings will be held in the future.

7. North Cascade Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (Presented by Kathleen Krager – Transportation Manager)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The power point presentation included two maps displaying the proposed changes to Cascade Avenue.

- Traffic lanes will go from four lanes down to two lanes as well as large bike lanes will be delineated.
- The reason for this change is due to pedestrians crossing Cascade looking both ways; there are continued flashing lights when no one is in the crosswalk; and with a four lane street a higher pedestrian accident rate exists.
- The crosswalks will go from four down to two and the median opening will be closed to reduce the number of jaywalkers.
- Discussion amongst the members included: the left lane maneuvers and keeping the reduced lanes south of Uintah; keeping Cascade Avenue safe and usable; the usage of paint to distinguish bike lanes; the consideration of bridges and tunnels, however this is not the best solution given ADA and proper bike requirements; the usage of green paint for the more dangerous roadway areas; consideration of the bike master plan as well as other northern city streets; continued public involvement; logical concerns versus unreal Colorado College concerns; the potential of adding a pedestrian signal; continued traffic counts and a criteria being established for project evaluation.

8. Utilities Integrated Water Resources Planning Effort (Presented by Leon Basdekas)

- This item was moved to the July Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

9. 2016 Stewardship Update (Presented by Melissa McCormick – Regional Parks, Trails and Open Space Division)

[Link to Power Point presentation](#)

The power point presentation included: TOPS staffing; seasonal training; staff support; TOPS stewardship project and additional projects in process.

- New positions have been discussed which may require more hiring.

- John Stark, Park Ranger Supervisor, gave an update on the seasonal hires, their role and the cross training process to learn more about interpretive programs.
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute was awarded a \$100,000 contract for various trail projects.
- Volunteer engagement is continuing with trail projects as well.
- Interpretive hikes with John Stark will possibly be offered to the public in the future.

Staff Reports

10. Bike to Work Day (Presented by Karen Palus – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

- Wednesday, June 22nd is “Bike to Work Day”. The Mayor will begin the ride at 6:00 a.m. at Goose Gossage Park and will meet at America the Beautiful Park at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and festivities.

11. Dedication of the Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care Meditation Garden at Nancy Lewis Park (Presented by Karen Palus – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director)

- The dedication of the Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care Meditation Garden will take place at Nancy Lewis Park on Wednesday, June 22nd from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

12. Corral Bluffs Open Space – Colorado Natural Area Designation (Presented by Chris Lieber – Parks Development Manager)

- A public hearing took place last month during the El Paso County Commissioner’s meeting for the consideration of Corral Bluffs Open Space as a Colorado Natural Area Designation.
- A meeting will take place in September at the State Parks and Wildlife Department.

Board Business

13. Committee Reports/General Comments

Mina Liebert - LART will have a meeting this afternoon and will have the first review of an array of applicants.

Alex Johnson – N/A

Charles Castle – On June 14th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. an Envision Shooks Run public meeting will be held at First Presbyterian Church downtown. The City Auditorium restrooms are targeted for completion on June 15th; however, it may need another week to complete the project. The Meadows Community Park contractor meeting will be held on Friday, June 10th.

Gary Feffer – N/A

Jackie Hilaire – Explained her role with the Art Commission and encouraged other Park and Recreation Advisory Board members to take her place on the Commission due to her upcoming term expiration.

Scot Hume – The TOPS Working Committee approved the CIP Budget last week. They toured two parcels around the Union Meadows area and another tour will be scheduled for the Corral Bluffs/Bishop area.

Hank Scarangella – An invitation will be sent to all board members for a tour of the Garden of the Gods Park and Visitor Center. Dates and times will be provided later. He will replace Alex Johnson on the Larry Ochs Sports Complex Committee.

Ron Ilgen – N/A

Jason Rupinski – N/A

14. Recommendation of TOPS liaison to City Council

- Charles Castle expressed interest and was chosen to be the TOPS liaison to City Council representing neighborhoods.

15. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

- Charles Castle motioned to nominate Mina Liebert for the Board Chair position.
2nd – Gary Feffer, Approved – Unanimous
- Hank Scarangella motioned to nominate Gary Feffer for the Board Vice Chair position.
2nd – Charles Castle, Approved - Unanimous

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m.